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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. While there has been a gradual decline in the number of factory slow-downs and other manifestations of passive resistance since June 1953, the regime is still meeting considerable opposition from workers and farmers on such issues as work-norms, crop delivery quotas and collectivization measures.
2. The number of overt visitors to West Berlin has gradually declined since June 1953. After a rise from 4,500 visitors in January 1953 to 5,700 visitors in June 1953, the monthly average for 1954 has declined to about 3500 to 4000. This decline is probably partly due to a lowered faith in the West and partly to fear of the SSD. Since the reasons for the visits are many and varied, it is difficult, however, to use the visitors' flow as an indicator of morale or resistance.
3. The failure of the June uprisings and of the Berlin Conference to remove the East German regime, and subsequent discouraging events culminating in the French refusal to ratify EDC, have caused a progressively declining morale and spirit of resistance allegedly leading to a tendency to come to terms with the regime. Each additional sign of Western weakness and disunity has furthered this trend. An additional factor has been the fear inspired by the propaganda campaign exploiting the John affair, and also dealing with ex-General Gehlen and other subjects. Although the John case has had less effect in East Germany than in the Federal Republic, it is still a significant link in the chain of discouraging events. The population realizes that the Cold War is here to stay, doubts Western willingness and ability to change the status quo, and has found no substitute for the goal of reunification.
4. While the population is thus willing to leave politics to the Party and its functionaries, it continues its resistance against the regime on specific issues affecting personal and working conditions. Organizations like the FDJ, the FDGB, and the German-Soviet Friendship Society have shown a marked lack of success in attracting new members, collecting dues, and getting people to attend meetings. Would-be activists in factories

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are usually quickly crushed by their colleagues, and officially sponsored work competitions have become farces. Sabotage in factories has been reported in some isolated instances; but generally, workers' resistance is limited to cases affecting their bread and butter. The farmers continue to resist collectivization and increases in delivery quotas, but encounter increasing pressure from the regime.

5. That the population has not changed its basic antagonism against the regime was demonstrated last June in the anti-EDC plebiscite, when it is estimated, 20 per cent of all ballots were invalid or marked with a "No." What has changed is the general attitude toward the West. The East Germans are becoming increasingly critical of the West, and skeptical towards Western propaganda. While they are sullen and cautious towards their regime, they are waiting somewhat doubtfully for concrete Western steps to change the status quo. This state of low morale will continue until some political event, series of events, indicates growing Western strength and unity which will promise a change in the East German situation.

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